

March 20, 2012

Senator Mike Green
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

Dear Senator Green:

I am writing to you as a State of Michigan resident and Concealed Pistol License (CPL) holder to express my support for the proposed substitute for Senate Bill 59. (What I share with you in this letter comes from me as an individual, not in any official capacity.) In reference to County Gun Boards, I have long desired modifications in the way the Boards are structured and in the manner in which a CPL is issued. Another change I have wanted to see is the elimination of "Pistol Free Zones". As we both know, Pistol Free Zones are anything but free of concealed pistols; as only law-abiding individuals are stripped of their concealed pistols in those places.

For some background on me, I have been employed by the Michigan Department of Corrections for the last 12 ½ years; the first 11 years as a corrections officer and the remainder as a program coordinator. Prior to that, I was a juvenile probation officer at the county level for six years. I have served previously as a reserve police officer for a total of six years. I am in my second year of my first term on my local board of education and I am currently Vice President.

My first experience with a County Gun Board came in the mid-1990s when the law was "may issue". I applied for and was issued a CPL that allowed me to carry a concealed pistol for "target-shooting and hunting" and "to and from and while performing the duties of a Juvenile Probation Officer". While there were no Pistol Free Zones, I was restricted on *when* I could carry. Sometime after I was issued the CPL, I was threatened with physical harm by one of my probationers. Believing the individual had the capacity to carry out his threat, I applied to the County Gun Board for a CPL that had no restriction on the time of day I could carry a concealed pistol. I was denied by two of the three members of the Board. The Michigan State Police representative told me, "You've only been threatened once." My restricted CPL continued until "shall issue" became law.

Upon applying for my first "shall issue" CPL, and at every subsequent renewal, I was required to attend the County Gun Board's monthly meeting. The sole purpose of my attendance has been to swear in front of the Board that the information I wrote on my application was still true on that day. Have I not already sworn to my answers with my signature? That requirement is not just inconvenient; it is costly in terms of lost wages, time, and travel expense. To my knowledge, every applicant was required to attend a Board meeting in order to receive their CPL.

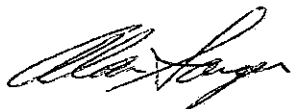
Having received my first "shall issue" CPL, I no longer had any restrictions on *when* I could carry a concealed pistol. Instead, I had restrictions on *where* I could carry one. My life circumstances had not changed and I had not broken any laws, but I instantly became unable to carry a concealed pistol in certain areas, the "Pistol Free Zones".

As I mentioned earlier, Pistol Free Zones are not pistol free. Not only are concealed pistols carried in those areas by individuals with ill intentions, there are pistols carried there openly by law abiding CPL holders. I am one such CPL holder who openly carries a holstered pistol in the Pistol Free Zones, since I don't believe that disarming myself is an option. While I would personally prefer to carry my pistol concealed in some places, such as a school, the law doesn't allow me to do so. The law says I can carry a concealed pistol anywhere in the state except... I don't believe there should be any exceptions. Either I can either be trusted with a concealed pistol or I can't.

Although it is legal, openly carrying a pistol in my local schools has caused me a fair amount of grief. I was named in stories on the local television news. I have been written about in Internet news articles. The local weekly paper had articles about me for three weeks in a row. Discussion continues with some in the community and there has been talk of recalling me from my school board position over this. The entire situation could have been avoided if I had simply been allowed to carry my pistol concealed like I did before there were "Pistol Free Zones".

Please know that I greatly appreciate your sponsorship of this bill and I wholeheartedly support it. If there is some way that I can assist you as this moves forward, simply ask. You may contact me at my home address above, via email at sangerbreckboard@gmail.com, or by telephone at 989-842-0023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Sanger", written in a cursive style.

Alan Sanger